

Seminar # 1:
SALVATION

FUNDAMENTALS OF SALVATION

A. THE NEED FOR SALVATION

Unless we realize that we need SALVATION and that we cannot gain or buy eternal life by our own abilities, there is no way we can be saved.

1. **Because the Bible says everyone is a sinner:**
Romans 3:10, 23 – As is it written: *“There is no righteous, no not one; All have sinned...”*
2. **Because the wages of sin is death:**
Romans 6:23- And God says, *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*
3. **Because it takes only one lie to make a liar:**
James 2:10 *“For whoever keeps the whole law, and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”*
4. **Because any sin torments:**
Isaiah 48:22- *“There is no peace, says the Lord, for the wicked.”*
5. **Because any sin separates you from your God:**
Isaiah 59:2- *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”*
6. **Because we will surely perish:**
Luke 13:3- *“I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”*
7. **Because any sin enslaves us:**
John 8:34- Jesus replied, *“I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”*

Millions of people are in need of *light and life*. People are wounded, troubled, lost. We all need a *true Savior!* There is no real healing apart from *“The True Healer.”* There is no life apart from the *“Life-Giver.”* There is no savior apart from the *“Savior of our Soul.”*

B. THE PROVISION OF SALVATION

Because of God’s immeasurable love for the perishing humanity, He gave us the PROVISION OF SALVATION. Jesus paid the full price of our sins. He did die for this lost world. He is not only offering *“salvation for us but new and everlasting relationship with Him.”*

1. **God gave His one and only Son for the forgiveness of our sins:**
Luther dubbed John 3:16 as *“the heart of the Bible - the Gospel in miniature.”*

“It’s so simple a child can understand it; yet it condenses the deep and marvelous truths of redemption into these few pungent words:

GOD-----the greatest lover
SO LOVED-----the greatest degree
THE WORLD-----the greatest number
THAT HE GAVE-----the greatest act
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON-----the greatest gift
THAT WHOSOEVER-----the greatest invitation
BELIEVETH-----the greatest simplicity
IN HIM-----the greatest Person
SHOULD NOT PERSIH-----the greatest deliverance
BUT-----the greatest difference
HAVE-----the greatest certainty
EVERLASTING LIFE-----the greatest possession

Source: *Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations*
By: Paul Lee Tan

2. **Jesus died for the sinners:**
Romans 5:8 – *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*
3. **Jesus is our salvation:**
Acts 4:12 – *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”* (See also Matthew 1:21)
4. **Jesus is faithful to forgive us and to purify us:**
1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*
5. **Jesus is the only way:**
John 14:6 – Jesus answered, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*
6. **Jesus gave us eternal gift:**
Ephesians 2:8-9 – *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*
7. **Jesus came that we might have life – life in its abundance:**
John 10:10b – Jesus said, *“...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*
8. **Jesus gave us power to become the children of God:**
John 1:12 – *“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

God has provided the way to salvation. Jesus came on earth and offered His life for the remission of our sins. He died on the Cross of Calvary and suffered the full penalty of our sins. Instead of us, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords suffered and died! That's the AMAZING PROVISION OF SALVATION!

C. THE REWARDS OF SALVATION

Being saved not only means having eternal life. It means being saved in all the aspects of our entire being: emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually. Having eternal life is not just being saved from eternal destruction – it means enjoying an eternal intimate relationship with the Almighty!

1. **Fellowship is restored:**

Romans 8:15 *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, ABBA FATHER.”* (See also Eph.2:19-22)

2. **You are now free:**

John 8:36 *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*

3. **A new life begins:**

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (TLB) *“When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun.”*

4. **We receive peace:**

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

i. Peace of God (Philippians 4:7; Romans 14:17)

ii. Peace with God (Romans 5:1; Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21; Ephesians 2:14)

5. **We receive freedom from the claws of Satan:**

Colossians 2:15 *“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”*

6. **We receive freedom from Past Sins:**

Colossians 2:13 *“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ.”*

7. **We receive freedom from Present Sins:**

Romans 6:14 *“For sin shall not be your Master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”*

8. **We receive freedom from Sickness:**

Matthew 8:17 *“This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ‘He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows.’”*

9. **We receive freedom from the Curse:**

Galatians 3:13 *“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’”*

10. We receive freedom from Judgment:

Hebrews 9:26-27 "Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

11. We receive freedom from Everlasting Death.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Seminar #2:
5 STEPS TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18

Just as a child needs to grow in order to meet the inevitable problems that come his way, a Christian, too, must grow. It is God's will that every believer grow strong that he may be steadfast against trials and temptations, in so doing, remain in his salvation.

STEPS TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

I. PRAYER

- Prayer is an honest conversation with God in which you *worship* Him and sincerely *seek* His direction for your life with an *open* heart as His *love relationship* with you is created and maintained.
- Prayer is a worship addressed to the *Father* (Acts 12:5), in the name of *Jesus* (John 14:13), through the power of the *Holy Spirit* (Ephesians 6:18)

Parts of prayer:

- A** – *doration*: praise and worship of the soul to God (Psalm 95:6)
- C** – *onfession*: repentance of every known sin (Psalm 32:5)
- T** – *hanksgiving*: in everything give thanks (Philippians 4:6)
- S** – *upplication*: intercession, request, petition (1Timothy 2:1)

II. BIBLE READING

- Man must crave pure spiritual milk. (1 Peter 2:2)
- Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)
- Man is a tripartite being: spirit, soul and body. (1Thessalonians 5:23)
- Man needs the Bible to be thoroughly equipped. (2Timothy 3:16-17)

III. WITNESSING

Witnessing is testifying and sharing the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Go stand and speak...* (Acts 5:20) *for it is the power of God unto salvation...* (Romans 1:16) *God has chosen you to be His witness...* (Acts 22:14-15)

IV. **FELLOWSHIP**

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

V. **OBEDIENCE**

- Let us be *doers* of the Word and not *hearers* only. (James 1:22)
- Doers will be blessed. (James 1:25)
- If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask anything and it will be done unto you. (John 15:7)

WORD OF GOD

The **Word of God** is God's revelation to man. For every problem today, the Bible holds the solution. This is the guidebook to everlasting life.

I. THE BIBLE

- A. The Scriptures (Mark 12:10; John 2:22; Luke 24:27; John 5:39; 2 Tim. 3:15-17)
The Scriptures means Holy Writings.
- B. The Word of God (Mark 7:13; Rom. 10:17; Matt 4:4; Heb. 4:12; Col. 3:16)

II. THE COMPOSITION OF THE BIBLE

Old Testament: 39 Books (Genesis – Malachi)
New Testament: 27 Books (Matthew – Revelation)
Total: 66 Books

III. THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES

A. The Bible is the inspired revelation of God.

- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- 2 Peter 1:21
- John 14:26
- Galatians 1:11-12
- 2 Peter 3:15-16

B. There are proofs that the Bible is the inspired revelation of God:

1. Its wonderful unity.

Over forty different writers wrote the 66 books of the Bible during a period of over 1,600 years, yet there is wonderful unity and harmony over the Bible.

2. Its versatility.

It meets the needs of all people of whatever race, nationality, language, custom or background. (Matthew 4:4)

3. Its superiority to other books.

The Bible is not *a* book but *the* book. It transforms lives.

4. Its influence on individuals and nations.

It has the ability to change the direction of lives and entire nations. It gives hope. It completes broken lives.

5. **Its preservation from century to century until now.**

It has stood the test of time and triumphed over countless critics, detractors and oppositions.

6. **Its fulfilled prophecies. (Isaiah 7:14) (Micah 5:2) (2 Tim. 4:1-3).**

Its accurate prophecies have always had the knack of being accurately fulfilled – not just marginally or generally, but in detail – so much so, that it can be followed by any human eye, from cover to cover.

7. **Its perfection (Psalm 19:7) (Jas. 4:1-3)**

Fallible man in the hand of infallible God created what is both inerrant and infallible.

IV. THE PURPOSE AND MESSAGE OF THE SCRIPTURES

A. **To reveal God to man.**

- Genesis 1:1
- Job 11:7; 37:23-24
- Ecclesiastes 3:11; 8:17
- Isaiah 40:28
- Romans 11:33-34
- 1Corinthians 2:16

B. **To show man his need of God.**

- Man's ignorance of his need (John 1:10; 4:10; 9:41)
- The way to God is revealed (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 16:30)

V. POINTS TO REMEMBER IN READING THE BIBLE

A. **Read it lovingly.**

The Bible is the Word of my Savior to me.

B. **Read it reverently.**

The Bible is the Word of my Almighty God.

C. **Read it prayerfully.**

The Bible is God's message to me.

D. **Read it meditatively.**

Be like Joshua and meditate on the Word of God. (Joshua 1:8)

E. **Read it systematically.**

Read right through the Bible, not just selected portions.

F. Read it resolutely.

Obey that which the Father teaches from His book.

G. Read it daily.

Not just on Sundays but every day of your life.

Make your Bible your constant companion in life. The Word of God, if neglected, will be your judge at the last days. (John 12:48)

VI. Here are a few guidelines on how to study the Word:

A. Set a regular time for study. The amount of time a Christian should spend in his study depends on several factors: availability of materials, references, resources that will aid him in his study, and the speed with which he can study a single message, etc. The ideal amount of time for study, therefore, varies from pastor to pastor.

B. Pray before studying the Bible. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your study of the Word.

PRAYER

Prayer is the daily experience of God. It is the key to maintaining and to maturing the love relationship, revealing the meaning of Scripture, extending God's invitations, and directing your life into major adjustments and obedience. Prayer is the offering of all our desires to God with a humble confidence that we shall obtain mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- It is the soul's desire to God. (Psalm 42:1-2; 63:1-3; 84:2; 143:6-9)
- It is a cry, a supplication (Exodus 22:23; Psalm 34:17; 86:3; 88:1-2,13; Isaiah 19:20)
- It is an instinct that must have an utterance. (Isaiah 44:17; 45:20; Luke 18:7,13)
- It is an appeal from the child to the Father. (Hosea 14:3; Matthew 6:6; Luke 11-12)
- It is described as:
 - *a beseeching to the Lord.* (Exodus 32:11)
 - *a calling on the Lord* (Acts 7:59; Romans 10:12-14)
 - *a lifting up of the heart to the Lord* (Lam. 3:41; Psalm 25:1)
 - *a pouring out of the heart to the Lord* (Psalm 62:8; I Sam. 1:15)
 - *a seeking of the face of the Lord* (Psalm 27:8)

I. HOW TO PRAY

- A. **Pray to the *Father*** (Luke 11:2) **in the name of *Jesus Christ*** (John 14: 13-14) **through the power of the *Holy Spirit*** (Ephesians 6:18).
- B. **Pray continually** (Romans 12:12; 1Thessalonians 5:17).
 - ...*in faith* (Mark 11:24; Hebrews 10:22)
 - ...*with a forgiving spirit* (Mark 11:25)
 - ...*with perseverance* (Luke 11:8; 18:1-7)
 - ...*in righteousness* (Psalm 34:15; John 15:7)

Suggested Procedures on How to Pray:

1. **Set a regular time for quality prayer.** A cluttered mind results in personal chaos. A cluttered spirit needs prayer to clear it up and give it direction. Make prayer the first order of the day.
2. **Look for that 'secret place'.** Locate that specific place in your house where the manifested communing presence of God is real, actual to you.
3. **Don't set a specific time limit.** You will defeat yourself from the start. Prayer will become a task – a heavy burden – rather than a door into a loving relationship with your heavenly Father.
4. **Begin with thanksgiving and praise.** Giving thanks and praise is your soul's offering to God. The Holy Spirit meets your spirit as you give yourself to worship.

5. **Repent.** Remember that your purpose is to have your heart cleansed. Hiding nothing from God will only be meaningful if it leads you to completely and resolutely turning your back on sin.
6. **Let your heart commune with God's heart.** The operative words are: surrender, give up. You are a child before your Father. Let Him listen to the occupations of your heart and then let your heart listen to Him.
7. **Petition God's help.** God's Word so grips us that we are prompted to respond by praying for so many concerns. These concerns flow in the following areas:
 - a. **World.** There is power in prayer. The governments of the world suffer from greed that results in hunger, corruption of power and war. We can touch this suffering world through prayer.
 - b. **Nation.** We can never pray too much for our leaders. They, of all people, need that touch of God. Praying for them is equal to praying for our national concerns.
 - c. **Israel.** What happens to this chosen nation of God determines what will happen to the world in general. Israel is so special to God that, whenever we pray for her, our hearts beat in unison with God's.
 - d. **Body of Christ.** *"Though we are many, we are one body..."* (1Corinthians 12:12). It is our obligation to pray for one another, to strengthen, encourage and fortify one another in God. The Body of Christ is God's hand working towards the fulfillment of His grand plan as stated in His Word.
 - e. **The JIL Church.** We must have keen knowledge of the congregation's needs. These needs are what we bring to God in prayer.
 - f. **Community.** Our Christianity is manifested in the persons that we are in our localities. We are the spiritual community heads – and we owe it to the people of our community to have the first burden for its welfare.
 - g. **Other needs.** We are the Levites of today who will intercede on behalf of others for:
 - *healings.*
 - *those in prison.*
 - *the oppressed.*
 - *deliverance from binding spirits.*
 - *blessings in finances.*
 - h. **Family.** Your family is your Jerusalem. Do not neglect them.
 - i. **Self.** The uncharged leader has no capacity to lead.
8. **Receive God's revelation.** Listen. God cannot uncover His plan if you do all the talking.

9. **End in a statement of faith. Claim God's promise of help.** *"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."* (Luke 11:9,10)

C. Pattern for Prayer

- A** doration: praise and worship of the soul of the Lord (Psalm 95:6)
- C** onfession: repentance from every sin (Psalm 32:5)
- T** hanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)
- S** upplication: intercession, request, petition and desires (1Timothy 2:1)

II. WHERE TO PRAY

The believer...

- A. may pray everywhere (1Timothy 2:8)
- B. must pray in the closet (Matthew 6:6)
- C. must pray in the temple/church (Luke 18:10; Psalm 26:12)

III. WHEN TO PRAY

Pray...

- A. in the morning (Psalm 55:17; 5:3)
- B. at noon and at evening (Ps. 55:17)
- C. day and night (Ps. 88:1)
- D. always (Luke 18:1; 1Thessalonians 5:17)
- E. daily (Ps. 86:3)

IV. POSTURES IN PRAYER

Pray...

- A. with bowed head (Genesis 24:26, 48)
- B. while falling on the face (Numbers 16:22)
- C. while kneeling (1Kings 8:54; Ezra 9:5)
- D. while standing (Luke 18:13)
- E. while sitting
- F. with the lifting up of hands (Nehemiah 8:6)
- G. while looking up
- H. with the spreading out of hands (Exodus 9:29)
- I. with weeping (1Samuel 1:10)
- J. with talking (Genesis 18:23-33)
- K. with agonizing (Luke 22:44)
- L. with groaning (Romans 8:26-27)

V. **HINDRANCES TO PRAYER**

- A. Unbelief (James 1:6-7)
- B. Iniquity, sin (Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1-2)
- C. An unforgiving spirit (Mark 11:25)
- D. Wrong motives (James 4:3)
- E. Neglect of mercy (Proverbs 21:13)

Prayer is the backbone of the Church. It is the power source of every Christian. It energizes; it transforms.

Our Lord Jesus Christ always sought retirement for prayer. He who is imbued with all the power of God, the Alpha and the Omega, the King of Kings—no less felt and modeled the necessity of a life of prayer.

Seminar # 5:
QUIET TIME

Quiet time is the quality time that a believer gives that he may know his God more. This is the time to pour out to God the condition of the heart. It conditions us to be sensitive to the presence of God.

I. THE PURPOSE OF QUIET TIME

- A. ***Fellowship with God.*** The Father desires our daily worship (Lamentations 2:18,19)
- B. ***Strength for the day.*** The Christian life is a battle against sin, the world and the devil. (Ephesians 6:12)
- C. ***Opportunity for a systematic Bible study and prayer.***

II. HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE QUIET TIME

- A. Remember that it is an appointment with the Lord.
- B. Set a convenient time and be consistent with it.
- C. Prepare both body and spirit in spending time with the awesome Creator.
- D. In reading the Scriptures, turn away from the sources of distraction.
- E. Listen to God as He speaks. Don't do all the talking. (Psalm 46:10; Job 2:13)
- F. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and be willing to obey what He has confirmed in His Word. (John 2:5)
- G. Come before Him with a clean heart. (Ps. 51:17)

III. MATERIALS FOR QUIET TIME

- A. ***Read the Bible carefully.*** Choose a translation with which you are fully acquainted.
- B. ***You may have notebook and pen for recording.*** After reading the Bible, you may record the answer to these questions:
 - a. What new lesson has God taught me?
 - b. What promise must I claim?
 - c. What command must I obey?
 - d. What example must I follow?
 - e. What error must I avoid?
 - f. What sin must I forsake?
 - g. What new knowledge about God Himself has He revealed?
- C. ***You may also make a list of prayer requests and check all the answered prayers.***

Seminar #6:
FASTING

Fasting is the absolute surrender of your self to God by means of abstaining from food, at times, even from drink.

God designed this activity wherein we bring the soulish-sensual part of our beings under the control of the Holy Spirit. *Fasting* is one way of saying, *"I am a spirit-being before I am a physical being."*

I. SHOULD ALL BELIEVERS FAST?

Yes. Fasting is not an option. Like prayer, it is part of being a Christian. (Matthew 6:6-7, 16, 17)

II. WHY MUST A BELIEVER FAST?

A. Every believer MUST fast.

We should fast...

1. that we may humble ourselves. (Psalm 35:13; 1Peter 5:6)
2. that we may come closer to God. (James 4:8)
3. that we may understand God's Word.
4. that we may find God's will and find direction for our lives. (Ezra 8:21)
5. that we may seek physical and spiritual healing. (Isaiah 58:6-8; Mark 9:29)
6. that we may intercede on others' behalf.
7. that we may ask God's supernatural intervention on a particular crisis or when a tremendous problem has risen that cannot be handled by ordinary means. (2Chronicles 20)

B. Ten specific promises of fasting (Isaiah 58:5-9, 11-12)

1. Light
2. Health
3. Righteousness
4. Glory
5. Answered Prayer
6. Continual Guidance
7. Satisfaction
8. Refreshing
9. Work that endures
10. Restoration

III. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO FAST?

- A. **Normal Fast.** Abstaining from food but not from water.
- B. **Partial Fast.** Abstaining from food for a short period of time. Example: one meal.
- C. **Absolute Fast.** Abstaining from food and drink. It is an exceptional measure for an exceptional situation. It is something reserved for God to initiate for by a supernatural visitation in spiritual emergencies.
- D. **Supernatural Fast.** Examples are:
 - *Deuteronomy 9 – Moses*
 - *Exodus 34 – Moses*
 - *Matthew 4 – Jesus*

IV. HOW SHOULD A BELIEVER PREPARE FOR A FAST?

- A. **Suggested Guidelines on Fasting:**
 1. Set a regular time to fast. Fasting will cause us to forget personal gain.
 2. Look for the best place to stay and fast.
 3. Do not work or do anything that would distract your communion with God.
 4. Be aware of the different kinds of fasting.
 5. Read and meditate God's Word.
 6. Soul-search before coming to God in prayer.
 7. Confess your sins before God. Ask for God's forgiveness.
 8. Commune with God through praise and worship.
 9. Fellowship with God. Let His manifested, communing presence fill your heart.
 10. Talk to God earnestly in prayer.
 11. Let God take you deeper into His love and care.
 12. Intercede for others.
 13. Present your personal requests before God.
 14. Sing songs of thanksgiving.
 15. Surrender your life and will before God.

B. Reminders for Fasting

1. We need to have the right attitude towards our body. (1 Corinthians 6:19- 20)
We need to prepare our physical bodies. The battleground during fasting is not only in the spirit but in the body as well.
2. Fasting is a very practical way to make and keep our body healthy. If we fast, many physical problems may be solved.
3. We are not fasting just because there is a need, or because deep troubles come our way. We fast to know God more, to have fellowship with God, to have intimacy with God.
4. We also fast when the need arises and we need God's supernatural intervention for a specific prayer requests such as: national, political, economic and Church issues, etc.

V. HOW LONG SHOULD A BELIEVER FAST?

A. Do not begin with a very long fast: 1 week, 2 weeks or 40 days.

1. Begin by omitting the last meal of the day.
2. Skip the last 2 meals.
3. Then 3 meals.

B. Begin on a small scale and gradually increase the length of your fast. As you fast in the name of God, make sure that your motives are right.

VI. WHAT HAPPENS AS A BELIEVER FASTS?

A. Extra time for Bible Reading and prayer is taken. It is vital to make it a practice to pray before and after reading the Bible. After prayer, when the Bible is read, it anoints the spirit and gets it in line with God. The prayer that comes after Bible Reading will be much more effective.

B. Guards are set against spiritual attack. As God is sought, Satan either attacks spiritually or looses his forces against you. Don't you worry, nothing can possibly hurt you.

VII. HOW CAN A BELIEVER BREAK HIS FAST?

- A. After fasting, always begin with a light meal, even if you fasted for only a short meal.
- B. The longer you fast, the more gradually you must break it. If you fasted a long time (over three weeks), your stomach will be like a baby's. It actually takes a week to get back to normal food.

Seminar # 7:

FAITH

Faith is absolute confidence in the *Person of God* and in what *He says He will do*. Faith in God through the work of salvation of Jesus Christ brings us into the love relationship with God called salvation. In that relationship, faith is the confidence that what God has promised or said will come to pass. Faith is based on God's power, not on human potential.

I. WHAT IS FAITH?

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1)

Within the Scriptures, there are two distinct features of faith. (Romans 10:17)

- Faith always directly originates from God's Word.
- Faith is directly related to God's Word.

A. Scriptural pattern of faith (Rom. 4:17-21)

If we long for the faith that rises *above* the level of our physical senses *to* the realm of God's unchanging truth, then we have the Scriptures to provide us with the pattern for faith. And true scriptural faith consists of acting like Abraham and proceeding on his steps of faith (v. 11).

Abraham's Three Successful Steps of Faith:

1. ***He accepted God's promise as true.*** (v. 17)
2. ***He refused to accept the testimony of his senses.*** The testimony of his senses undoubtedly was that it was no longer possible for either of them to have a child. (vv. 18-19)
3. ***He held fast to what God had promised.*** (vv. 20-21) And because Abraham held fast to what God had promised, his physical experience and the testimony of his senses were brought in line with the testimony of God.

It is clearly shown here that the object upon which Abraham's faith is focused is God's Word. Thus, faith is based on the stated promises of God, only accepting the testimony of the senses in so far as they agree with God's Word.

B. Distinction between faith and hope

Hope is directed towards the future and is primarily in the realm of the mind.

It is an attitude of expectancy concerning things that are still in the future. It is a mental attitude of aspiration concerning the future.

Faith, on the other hand, is primarily in the realm of the heart. It is a condition of the heart that produces, here and now, something so real within us, that it can be described by the word of substance.

1 Thessalonians 5:8 further differentiates hope and faith. Hope is associated to a helmet, within the region of the head, that is, within the region of the mind. On the other hand, faith is found in the region of the breast, that is, in the region of the heart. This difference is further reinforced in Romans 10:10, where the exercise of faith, or believing, is directly associated with the heart.

C. Contrast between faith and sight [and other senses] (1Corinthians 5:7)

Sight and all other physical senses are related to the object of the physical and material world. All knowledge that comes to natural man comes to him through the five senses.

Faith deals with the things not seen. Unlike the senses, faith deals with the revealed truths of God (in His Word), which are both invisible and eternal. It is not based on the evidence of our physical senses but on the eternal, invisible truths and realities revealed in God's Word.

Faith, as opposed to sight, is illustrated in the Scriptures. In Psalm 37:39-40, David did not see first and then believe. He believed first and then he saw. In John 11:39-40, Jesus made it plain that faith consists of believing then seeing, not seeing *first, then* believing. Most people reverse this order, they say: "I will only believe in what I can see", that is, 'to see is to believe'. But this is incorrect. When we actually see a thing, we do not need to exercise our faith on it. It is when we do not see that we are exercising our faith.

D. Conflict between the evidences of our senses and the revelation of God's Word

We may see and feel within our bodies all the evidence of physical sickness. Yet the Bible reveals in Matthew 8:17 that Jesus Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses; and in Isaiah 53:5 with His stripes we are healed. We then have two alternatives:

We may accept the testimony of our senses, thus, accepting the condition of our physical sickness.

or

We may hold firmly to the testimony of God's Word that we are healed. If we do this with persistence/active faith, the testimony of our senses will be brought in line with the testimony of God's Word.

**E. Connection of faith in the heart to confession with the mouth.
(Romans 10:10; Matthew 12:34)**

"When the heart is full, it overflows and pours from the mouth." When our heart is full of faith in Christ, this faith will find its proper expression as we confess Christ openly with our mouth. Faith that is held back in silence without any confession is an incomplete faith that does not bring the resulting blessings we desire (2Corinthians 4:13).

Confession comes from the Greek word *homologin*, meaning, "saying the same as." Confession, then, is saying with our mouths [agreeing with] what God Himself has already said in His Word.

In this sense, the expression of the heart is faith for we naturally speak with our mouths, as we believe in our hearts.

II. WHAT IS THE BASIS OF FAITH?

The basis of having faith in God is in three important realities:

A. The Nature of God (Hebrews 6:13)

- a. He cannot change. (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17)
- b. He cannot fail. (Job 42:2; 1Chronicles 28:20)
- c. He cannot lie. (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2)

B. The Redemptive Work of the Son of God (Hebrews 12:2; 1Corinthians 1:30; Romans 5:1,2)

Christ has become the source of our faith in God. The fact of His death and resurrection provides ground for our belief.

C. The Word of God (Matthew 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; Jeremiah 1:12)

His Word stands true forever. Faith comes when God brings a specific word – out of all He has ever said – directly to us in our circumstances. Spoken in this way, the Word of God comes alive to us, releasing our faith.

Source: The Shepherd's Staff By Dr. Ralph Mahoney

III. HOW DOES FAITH WORK?

The principle of faith is to operate in our lives continually, no matter what the circumstances. (Romans 3:27; 2Corinthians 5:7; James 1:5,6)

It works in the following ways:

A. God gives us faith. (Romans 1:17; Habakkuk 2:4)

The righteous live by HIS faith, that is the faith HE gives us as a gift.

B. Faith comes by a Word from God. (Romans 10:17; Genesis 15:3-5, 17:15-21; Joshua 1:8)

God encourages us by speaking a “word” relevant to our circumstances.

C. There must be obedience to the Word. (James 2:17; Genesis 15:6; Matthew 7:24-27)

For faith to operate in our situation, we must obey that word. Faith is *active*, not passive. Most of God’s promises are conditional – He will do His part, if we do our part.

D. Crisis is the ‘trial of our faith.’ (1Peter 1:6,7; Romans 4:16-21; Psalm 105:17-19)

Crisis is a period of testing. Everything happening around us appears contrary to what God has said, and there seems to be no natural evidence for our believing. At this point, our faith rests

completely on God's Word [what He has spoken to us]. In faith we cast ourselves on HIS FAITHFULNESS. In our times of doubt and struggle, God is faithful and does not abandon us.

E. Faith has results.

(James 1:2-4, 12; Genesis 22:1-3; Psalm 105:19-22; Acts 3:16; Hebrews 6:13-15)

The end result of faith is always victory on the part of the believer, bringing glory to God.

Source: The Shepherd's Staff By Dr. Ralph Mahoney

Seminar # 8:
SOUL WINNING

Soul winning is a definite effort to lead a person to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, which, in turn, brings about a complete transformation in that person's life (Proverbs 11:30; Psalm 126:5-6).

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUL WINNING

- A. **The lost cannot call on the Lord to be saved unless they believe** (1Corinthians 15:1-4).
But how shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
- B. **The lost cannot believe in Him until they hear the Good News of salvation.**
But how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?

Observe that...

- a. the eunuch had to hear to believe (Acts 8:26-39).
- b. Paul had to hear to believe (Acts 9:1-18).
- c. the Philippian jailer had to hear to believe (Acts 16:1-40).

- C. **They cannot hear the Good News without a soul winner or a witness.**
But how shall they hear without a preacher [witness]?

Notice that...

- 1. many were saved because the disciples witnessed (Acts 2,3).
- 2. the eunuch was saved because Phillip witnessed.
- 3. Paul was saved because Stephen (Acts 7:54-60), and Ananias witnessed (Acts 9:1-18).
- 4. Cornelius and his household were saved because Peter witnessed (Acts 10).
- 5. the Philippian jailer and his household were saved because Paul and Silas witnessed (Acts 16:25).
- 6. you were saved because somebody witnessed to you.

II. QUALIFICATIONS OF A SOUL WINNER

- A. A true soul winner has first experienced conversion. (Isaiah 52:11; 2Timothy 2:6-7)
- B. He has a strong, unshakable conviction. (John 9:4; Luke 5:11; Acts 26:22-23; 1Corinthians 9:16)
- C. He has received the commission [responsibility]. (Mark 16:15; John 15:16; John 20:21)
- D. He has compassion for perishing souls. (Matthew 9:36; Romans 10:1; Romans 9:1-3)
- E. He is filled with the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:18)
- F. He is separated unto the Gospel of God. (Romans 1:16)
- G. He is established in faith. (1Peter 3:15)

III. PROCEDURES IN SOUL WINNING

- A. Seek and pray for an opportunity. Deal with your own age.
- B. Share the Word of God coupled with your personal testimony.
- C. Lead the person to a decision.

A-B-C OF SALVATION

A – Admit that you are a sinner. (Romans 3:10, 23)

B – Believe that Jesus died for you. (John 3:16)

C – Confess Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior. (Revelations 3:20; John 1:12)

- D. Stress the importance of fellowship with other Christians.
- E. Urge him/her to attend worship services.

IV. THINGS TO REMEMBER IN SHARING THE WORD OF GOD

- A. Never argue. Remember that your goal is to win souls.
- B. Maintain humility in character.
- C. Practice patience as well as the other fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- D. Always carry a Bible and a supply of Gospel literature.
- E. Don't be afraid of people. (Psalm 27:1-3)
- F. Avoid selfishness. Don't be self-centered. (Philippians 2:4)
- G. Recognize the Power of the Holy Spirit in winning souls. He is the One who convicts people and leads them to accept our Lord Jesus Christ.
- H. After praying, give him Bible verses on the assurance of salvation.

Seminar # 9:
CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Steward comes from the Greek word *oikomos*: *oiko* and *remo*, meaning “to arrange or manage.” In the New Testament, a steward is one who manages, administers and takes care that which belongs to someone else. He is appointed by the owner and entrusted to keep the estate running smoothly.

Since God is the One who gives every material blessing, we acknowledge His ownership (1Chronicles 29:14; James 1:17). *Christian stewardship*, then, is the supervision and management of our Christian lives.

I. THINGS TO MANAGE OR SUPERVISE

The responsibilities entrusted to us are three-fold: those of time, talents and money.

A. Time (Ephesians 5:15-16)

Pastor Jeremiah writes, “There is a gift which comes to us from a royal source each day of our lives, bright and sparkling, absolutely untouched, unspoiled. This is the priceless gift of time. Each day we receive a fresh 24 hours, 1,440 seconds, 24 hours we have never lived before and 24 hours we shall never live again.”

B. Talents (Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:37; 1Corinthians 7:7, 12:8-11, 28)

There are three things to remember about our talents:

1. God has wisely given each individual a talent [or talents] to use for His glory (1Corinthians 12:11-28).
2. What we do with what we have will be the basis of our judgment (Luke 19:11-27).
3. If we do not use our talent for God, we will lose it (Matthew 25:24-30).

C. Money

Twelve out of the thirty-eight parables in the New Testament has to do with money. In Matthew, Mark and Luke, one out of six verses is about money. Why? 100% of what we have comes from God and what we do with all our treasures is important to Him. Like in every other area of stewardship, God is interested in the whole picture, not just a percentage.

In the light of all these, we stewards [believers] completely belong to God alone. We do not belong to ourselves or to anyone else. Our time, money, possession and talents all belong to God (Romans 14:7-9; Luke 16:1-2, 10-13).

FORMS OF GIVING

Christ gave His life for us because of His great love. In return, we, too, should give everything to the Lord. Though we cannot outgive Him, it is our responsibility to give Him what is due to Him.

There are many forms of giving:

a. **Tithing**

This is not only an Old Testament principle [and practice], but a New Testament as well. Tithing is the giving of 10% of what we have unto the Lord. In terms of income, it should be 10% of our gross income (Malachi 3:10).

a.1. The Practice of Tithing

1. ***Tithing before the dispensation of the law***

- o According to ancient authorities such as Origen, Jerome and Chrysostum, the early church both taught and practiced tithing.
- o Tithe – giving before the time of the law (Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:10)

2. ***Tithing during the dispensation of the law***

- o Tithing during the time of Moses (Leviticus 27:30-33; Numbers 18:21-24; Deuteronomy 12:5-6)
- o All Israelites were commanded by God to bring their tithes into the “Holy Place which the Lord our God shall choose” even unto His habitation.

3. ***Tithing during the period of the kings and of the prophets***

(2Chronicles 31:5-12; Nehemiah 10:37; Malachi 3:8-12)

- o Whenever good kings who kept Israel in the true worship of God reigned, the practice of tithing was upheld. Whenever the nation forgot God fully, the prophets were sent with a message of rebuke, correction and instruction to call them back to full obedience.
- o A nation under curse (Malachi 3:8-9; Deuteronomy 28:15; Psalm 37:22; James 4:17)
- o Whether a person is rich or poor, withholding from God is robbing God and will not help him either spiritually or materially.

4. ***Tithing in Jesus' Teaching***

- o Jesus condemned the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. (Matthew 6:2,5,16; Luke 18:9-14)
- o Praying, fasting, giving of alms, witnessing, righteous living and giving of tithes are not condemned, but hypocrisy in anything we do is condemned.
- o Jesus Himself censured that justice, mercy and faithfulness should be practiced without the neglect of tithing. (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42)

a.2. Blessings in Tithing (Malachi 3:10-12)

Tithing...

1. *brings meat in God's house (v. 10).*
2. *prompts the superabundant outpouring of all needed blessings (v. 10).*
3. *reverses the curse of the devourer (v. 11).*
4. *causes all the nations to call you blessed (v. 12).*

b. Offering

This is giving something out of the 90% of what we have after deducting our tithes unto the Lord. (Psalms 96:18)

c. Love Gifts (2 Corinthians 9:7)

This is almost similar to our offering except that it is given specifically to a particular person or organization that has been a blessing to you.

d. Pledges (2 Corinthians 9:7)

This is a promise unto the Lord wherein a particular amount of money is given and intended for a special purpose.

II. HOW TO GIVE

We must give...

- A. willingly. (2 Corinthians 8:12-15, 9:17)
- B. according to our ability and possession. (Acts 2:42-47; Deuteronomy 16,17)
- C. according to the example of Jesus. (2Corinthians 8:9; 1John 2:6; 1Peter 2:21)
- D. according to the example of the early believers. (John 12:1-8; Acts 4:32-37)
- E. in proportion to the desired blessing. (Luke 6:38; Matthew 19:29)
- F. at every opportunity. (Galatians 9-10)

III. BLESSINGS IN GIVING

We are...

1. blessed according to how we give (2Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 6:38; Malachi 3:8-12)
2. supplied with all our needs here and now (Philippians 4:18-19; Proverbs 11:24)
3. assured of great reward in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 16:9-12; 1Timothy 6:17-19)

Seminar #10:
Your Own Local Church

Church comes from the Greek word *ecclesia*, meaning “called out” from darkness (1Corinthians 1:2). It refers to a local group of believers, a body of believers, the called out ones. It can also mean the church as universal.

I. WHAT IS LOCAL CHURCH ACCORDING TO THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The local church refers to...

- A. the fellowship or community of believers who recognize and express themselves as part of the whole Body of Christ.
- B. those who understand and believe the five ministries of Ephesians 4:11 as Christ’s gift to the worldwide church to bring the body of Christ to full maturity. (Ephesians 4:13)
- C. those under the leadership of the elders. (Hebrews 13:7)
- D. the believers, each of whom has a vital three-fold ministry:
 - a. to minister to the Lord. (1Peter 2:5)
 - b. to minister to others in the Body of Christ. (Romans 12:3-9)
 - c. to share the Gospel, to bring others to the Kingdom of God. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- E. the place where believers in fellowship, under the ministry of the Word of God and the anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit, are brought to maturity in the image of Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

II. WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR EVERY BELIEVER TO BELONG TO A LOCAL CHURCH?

- A. It is God’s pattern. (Psalm 68:6; Hebrews 10:25)
- B. We need to be under authority. (Hebrews 13:17)
- C. We need to have a place where we can mature in the ministry God has called us through discipline and fellowship.

III. WHAT MUST A BELIEVER REMEMBER BEFORE JOINING A LOCAL CHURCH?

Every believer must keep in mind that joining or associating with a church does not save a soul (Romans 11:6; Acts 4:12). When he looks for the church where God will use him, that church should be a church that is founded and is burdened by God’s Word (1Peter 2:2; 1Corinthians 12:13-14).

Not only that... Such a church should be a place where the Holy Spirit moves and operates in freedom. And most importantly, souls must be its chief mission and priority.

IV. HOW DOES THE BELIEVER FUNCTION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST?

- A. He has an important role in the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:16)
- B. He needs to find out what part God has for him in the local church.
- C. His role may be different from others. (Romans 12:4)
- D. He needs to accept the contribution of others and realize that without them, he is not complete. (Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:25)
- E. He needs to submit completely to the Lordship of Christ and the authority Christ has placed over him in the local church. (Hebrews 13:17)
- F. He needs to commit himself willingly to all the other members of the local church.
- G. He needs to realize the importance of the love of God to enable himself to flow together in the part each one has to take. (Ephesians 4:16)

V. HOW SHOULD BELIEVERS RESPOND TO THE LOCAL CHURCH?

- A. Once you have chosen your local church after prayer and consultation with the Holy Spirit, then you should commit yourself fully.
- B. Support it.
- C. Love its pastors, workers and fellow brethren.
- D. Get involved in its mission to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world.
- E. Let your commitment be first to God and then to the church.

Seminar # 11:
LOVE, COURTSHIP, AND MARRIAGE

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

I. LOVE

A. LOVE DEFINED

Love, according to the dictionary, is a strong affection for, attachment or devotion to a person.

1. LOVE IS...

- **truthful.** It rejoices in the truth (1Corinthians 13:6). Love delights to tell the truth. Lovers are not afraid to confide their weaknesses to their partners for their mutual benefit.
- **sustaining.** It bears all things (1Corinthians 13:7). True love does not collapse under strain, whether emotional, mental or physical.
- **trusting.** It believes all things (1Corinthians 13:7). True love thinks good motives; it is not suspicious.
- **hopeful.** It hopes all things (1Corinthians 13:7). True love always expects the best.
- **enduring.** It endures all things (1Corinthians 13:7). It endures through time, deception and even death.
- **successful.** Love never fails (1Corinthians 13:8).

2. LOVE IS NOT...

- **envious.** Love does not envy (1Corinthians 13:4). True love does not envy success, gifts, talents, and the possessions of others.
- **boastful.** Love is not proud (1Corinthians 13:4). It does not show off. It maintains humility.
- **conceited.** Love is not puffed up (1Corinthians 13:4). True love always prefers the other to one's self.
- **rude.** Love does not behave improperly (1Corinthians 13:4). It is never coarse or offensive. True love is courteous at all times.
- **selfish.** Love is not self-seeking (1Corinthians 13:5). Love sacrifices and gives generously.

- o **irritable.** Love is not easily provoked (1Corinthians 13:5). True love is not touchy.
- o **ensorious.** Love thinks no evil (1Corinthians 13:5). It is not critical, reproofing, nagging, suspicious or blaming.
- o **sin-loving.** Love does not delight in evil (1Corinthians 13:6). True love hates, abhors and loathes sin.

3. **NOTIONS ABOUT LOVE**

- a. ***Love ought not to be based on feelings.***
- b. ***Love should not be rooted in physical attraction.*** (Judges 14:1-3)
- c. ***Love is not sexual attraction.*** Sex is beautiful. Nothing is dirty or ugly about it. However, it is not the test of love, neither should it be done outside the sanctity of marriage.
- d. ***Love is not blind; it is not irresistible.*** Character, ideals and spiritual qualities are essential for love to become enduring, lasting.

B. **ELEMENTS OF LOVE**

1. **Patience** – It takes time to get to know each other, to decide, to check your decision.
2. **Commitment** – There should be a covenant between God and both of you.
3. **Responsibility** – As Christians, you must be responsible for each other's well-being.
4. **Discipline** – True love requires self-control. (2Timothy 1:7)
5. **Sacrifice** – Love does not shrink from sacrifice. (John 3:16; Romans 5:8)
6. **Faithfulness** – (Hosea 3:1-3)

C. **KINDS OF LOVE (by Dick Mills)**

1. **EROS** – This is sexual love, physical love. It is the mutual desire between a man and a woman.
2. **ESTORGE** – This is the love one has for the family. (Romans 12:10)
3. **PHILEO** – This is the love of friendship. It is the affection we feel for other people in friendly relationship.
4. **AGAPE** – This is Divine Love. It is that constant, everlasting love that can be bestowed by God alone.

II. **COURTSHIP**

Courtship is the journey where the man seeks to ascertain the woman who will help him fulfill God's destiny and where the woman establishes the man who will be her partner for life. Both the man and the woman must determine the Lord's will. The woman's decision must be both fair and reasonable. If she says yes, her yes will stand for a lifetime.

A. **GUIDANCE TO COURTSHIP** (Genesis 24:1-67; 29:1-30)

1. Don't go out to date or court a Canaanite [unbeliever]. (Genesis 24:3,4)
2. Do not be equally yoked [form no love relationship] with an unbeliever. (2 Corinthians 6:14)
3. Be empowered, as a Christian, to give Agape Love [Divine Love].
4. Trust God. We can obtain God's guidance through
 - a. the Word of God – (Proverbs 3:5-6; 2Timothy 3:16)
 - b. prayer – (Philippians 4:6)
 - c. godly counsel – (Proverbs 11:14; Proverbs 15:22)
 - d. circumstances – (Romans 8:28)
 - e. God's provision – (Philippians 4:19)
5. Possess the real beauty that comes from within. (Isaiah 53:2; Psalm 139:14)
6. Wait till you are assured (Genesis 24:21). Courtship takes time.

B. **CARNAL AND DESTRUCTIVE METHODS OF CHOOSING A PARTNER**

1. Choosing by sight (Genesis 6:2-5; Judges 14:1-3). We are not to choose only by what we see.
2. Fleshly choice motivated by lust and sin (2Samuel 11:1-5, 27; Genesis 34:1- 4). The flesh deceives.
3. Personal decision lacking divine approval. (Proverbs 3:5-6)
4. Praying and asking God to do what His Word already forbids. (Deuteronomy 7:1-4; Joshua 23:11-13; 2 Corinthians 6:15-18; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2-3)

III. **MARRIAGE**

Marriage is meant to be happy as it is the residue of sinless Eden (Genesis 1:28). "He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the Lord." (Proverbs 18:22)

A. **REASONS FOR MARRIAGE**

1. It is divinely ordained. It is God's plan, purpose and provision from the beginning. (Genesis 2:18, 20, 22, 24; Psalm 68:6; Matthew 19:4-5; Ephesians 5:23, 31)
2. It is instrumental to completeness and fulfillment of true living. (Ephesians 5:23; 29-31)

Marriage provides needed fellowship, comfort, companionship, and partnership. With very few exceptions, we should marry. The few exceptions should be guided by God (Matthew 19:10-12; 1Corinthians 7:7-8, 32,34) and must not be the product of childish decision, misguided imitation, faithless conclusion or religious compulsion.

3. It must be a compliment to God's work of procreation (Genesis 1:27-28, 9:1; Psalm 128:3; Malachi 2:15; Ephesians 6:1-3). We are, in a sense, co-creators with God. We are to love our children in the same way God has loved His creation.

B. METHODS OF CONFIRMING GOD'S WILL

We may confirm God's will through:

1. **God's Word** (Psalm 119:105, 130; Matthew 22:29; 2Timothy 3:16-17)
2. **The voice of the Holy Spirit:** His prompting and directing in you (John 10:4-5,27, 14:26, 16:12-13; 1Corinthians 12:8; Romans 8:14; Proverbs 20:27)
3. **Direct revelation** (John 16:13; Joel 2:1-29)
4. **Testing.** God-given love cannot be quenched by temporal contrary circumstances. Instead, it overcomes trials and temptations (1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:20-22).

C. WHEN TO MARRY

You may marry when...

1. God has guided you into the marriage after much prayer and after seeking His will.
2. you know the other person sufficiently well as to know his or her likes and dislikes, good points and bad points. Hasty marriages are dangerous.
3. you have waited for love. Marriage is for life and it will take God-like love to establish a happy home.
4. have waited until you are old enough to marry. Marriage carries heavy responsibilities requiring maturity and experience.
5. have waited until moral problems have been settled. Never marry a man to reform him. It is better to never marry a man whose habits can only mean bitterness and ruined marriage and unhappy home. Change should come before marriage.
6. you have waited until you have attained a certain measure of financial stability.

D. PRINCIPLES OF A HAPPY MARRIAGE

Your reactions to each other in three basic areas are the most important:

1. your expectations for the future
2. your pattern of communication
3. how the two of you will make decisions and settle disagreements
 - a. Know your expectations.
 - a.1. How do you want to be treated as a person?
 - a.2. What is your concept of how your mate wishes to be treated as a person?
 - a.3. What do you believe are your responsibilities and rights as a married person?
 - a.4. What do you perceive are the responsibilities and rights of your partner?
 - a.5. What do you expect from your marriage in the long run?
 - b. Express your feelings properly.
 - b.1. Speak without anger or hostility. Learn to develop a pleasant tone of voice.
 - b.2. Be clear and specific.
 - b.3. Be positive. This means no faultfinding, blaming, judging, name-calling, and other negative behavior. Be more appreciative.
 - b.4. Be courteous and respectful of your mate's opinion. You can do this even if you don't agree. Be as concerned for your mate's opinion as you are for your own.
 - b.5. Be sensitive to the needs and feelings of your mate. If your mate hurts, you can understand that hurt and even hurt, too. Tune in to feelings of anxiety and needs.
 - c. Become a better listener.
 - c.1. Show interest in your partner. Show that nothing else in the world matters except hearing your partner out. Maintain good eye contact, and respond with a smile or a nod of your head from time to time.
 - c.2. While listening, use appropriate phrases to show agreement, interest, and understanding. Show your partner that you understand the ideas presented.
 - c.3. Ask well-phrased questions. This shows interest and encourages the speaker.

- c.4. Listen a little longer. Just when you think you are through listening, listen 30 seconds longer.

- d. Reach decisions and settle disagreements.
 - d.1. Be willing to discuss any problem.
 - d.2. Try to resolve differences without making one person “right” and the other “wrong.”
 - d.3. Avoid angry outbursts. “Blowing your top” rarely produces positive results.
 - d.4. Determine the real issues involved.
 - d.5. Regardless of how much you disagree with your partner or how different your experience is, your mate’s viewpoint will have some positive angles. The decision may have been achieved through sound reasoning or from strictly emotional response, but you should not dismiss your mate’s perspective from your mind. You need not agree with it, but you should seek, with respect, to understand why your partner feels the way about the matter.

- e. Be well-founded. Make your foundation sure.
 - e.1. Make an absolute commitment to your marriage.
 - e.2. If serious trouble develops, seek help immediately.
 - e.3. Stay interested in each other. Date your mate.
 - e.4. Have Bible study and prayer everyday.
 - e.5. Love your mate as Christ loves the Church.
 - e.6. Follow 1 Corinthians 13.

Source: The Compleat Marriage By Nancy Van Pelt

Seminar # 12:
BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and a subsequent experience, following after conversion. It is a quite distinct experience from salvation.

The people of Samaria received salvation through the ministry of Philip. But they received the Holy Spirit through the ministry of Peter and John. Their receiving the Holy Spirit was a *separate experience subsequent to their receiving salvation*.

I. ITS NATURE

There are two distinct but complementary aspects:

A. Outwardly

The invisible but absolute real presence of the Holy Spirit comes down from above upon the believer and completely surround, envelope and immerse him (Acts 2:2, 17, 33, 19:6).

B. Inwardly (1 Corinthians 12:13; John 7:37-39)

The believer in the likeness of one drinking, receives the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within himself, until there comes a point at which the Holy Spirit thus received in turn wells up within the believer and flows forth like a river within the inmost depth of his being (Acts 2:4, 8:15-17, 10:47, 19:2).

II. ITS EVIDENCE

A. What outward manifestation can be accepted as evidence that a person has received the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is invisible. He is compared by Jesus to the wind.

Although the wind is invisible, the effect which the wind produces, when it blows, can be both seen and heard. The Holy Spirit is invisible, but the effect which the Holy Spirit produces, when He begins to work, can often be seen or heard (Acts 2:33).

B. What actually happens to people who received the Holy Spirit? What outward manifestations accompany this operation of the Holy Spirit?

1. *“and began to speak with your tongues”* (Acts 2:2-4).
2. *“they heard them speak with tongues”* (Acts 10:42-46).

3. *“they spoke with tongues”* (Acts 19:6).

There is one and only outward manifestation which is common to all three occasions where people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In each case, the Scripture clearly states that those who received this experience “spoke with tongues” or “spoke with other tongues.”

III. ITS PURPOSE

For what purpose is the baptism in the Holy Spirit given? What result does God desire to produce in the life of the believers through baptizing him in the Holy Spirit?

God desires...

A. **to produce in the believer the power to witness** (Acts 1:8).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an endowment with supernatural power from heaven to become an effective witness for Jesus. As soon as the 120 believers in the upper room (Acts 2:1-4) were baptized in the Holy Spirit, the whole Jerusalem felt its impact. Within an hour or two, a crowd of many thousands had gathered and were gloriously converted. There was a mighty spiritual impact upon the whole community (Acts 4:31-33, 5:28, 8:8).

B. **the exaltation and glorification of Christ** (Acts 2:3).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit reveals and makes real to each believer the supreme exaltation of Christ in glory at the right hand of the Father. Thus, the Holy Spirit in the believer is enabled in His special ministry of glorifying and exalting the Lord Jesus Christ in the church (Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 1:3-4; 1Peter 3:22).

C. **the believer’s entry into the supernatural life.**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a present forecast of the heavenly power and glory which the believer will enjoy in their fullness in heaven. Thus, there is entrance into a new kind of life, even now, where the supernatural becomes natural. (Acts 19:11).

D. **that the believer obtain supernatural help in prayer** (Romans 8:26-27).

The Holy Spirit bestows indwelling personal power, revolutionizes the prayer of the believer, guiding and controlling His intercession, and enabling Him to fulfill the New Testament commandment to *“pray always and to pray without ceasing”* (Ephesians 6:18, 1Thessalonians 5:17).

IV. ITS EFFECTS

A. **New understanding of the Scriptures** (John 14:26, 16:13)

The Holy Spirit, upon coming to dwell in the believer, illuminates and quickens the Scripture (2Timothy 3:16).

- B. **Daily guidance in the path of God's will** (Romans 8:14)
The only way in which the believer can lead a successful Christian life is to allow himself to be continually led by the Spirit in all his thoughts, words and deeds.
- C. **Life and health for the physical body** (Romans 8:11)
The Holy Spirit, in indwelling the believer, imparts to his physical body a measure of divine life and health to arrest and hold back the Satanic inroads and infirmities (John. 10:10).
- D. **Outpouring of divine life into the believer's heart** (Romans 5:5)
The divine life cannot be produced by the natural man – no matter how refined or educated he may be. God's character is seen in us only when God the Holy Spirit lives in us who believe.
- E. **Power for service** (Acts 1:8)
The power of the Spirit within us generates power to enable us to be witnesses for Christ. Not only are we enabled to bear witness of Jesus, we actually become witnesses unto Him.
- F. **Empowerment for prayer** (Jude 20; Ephesians 6:18; Romans 8:26,27)
The Holy Spirit Himself intercedes that we may pray according to God's will.
- G. **Inspiration for praise and worship to God** (Acts 2:11, 10:46; Philippians 3:3; Ephesians 5:18,19; John 4:24)
The Holy Spirit Himself leads us to a genuine praise and worship of the Holy God.

V. **REQUIREMENTS IN RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- 1. You must receive Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. (John 1:12)
- 2. You must desire the blessing. (John 7:37; Acts 2:38)
- 3. Renounce hidden things of dishonesty. (2Corinthians 4:2)
- 4. Relax. (Acts 2:2)
- 5. Receive by faith. (Luke 11:15-17)
- 6. Respond. (Acts 2:4)

Seminar # 13:
DIVINE HEALING

The ministry of healing is a key part of the Gospel of the Kingdom. The great truth that God heals runs throughout the Bible. Both Old and New Testament give witness to God's provision for the healing of our sicknesses and diseases.

A large portion of Christ's earthly ministry was concerned directly with ministering physical healing to the sick and afflicted. The history of the early church is full of accounts of great healings and miracles, done in the Name of Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 53:5)

I. GOD'S VIEW OF HEALING

- A. Healing the sick is God's work. (John 9:1-4)
- B. Healing the sick is for the glory of God. (John 11:4)
- C. It is good to heal the sick. (Matthew 12:11-12)
- D. Jesus was willing to heal the sick. (Matthew 8:3-7)
- E. Jesus gave the disciples power to heal. (Matthew 10:1)

II. PROMISES OF GOD ON HEALING

He promises...

- A. protection provided by obedience to God
- B. wisdom, which is health to the whole body. (Proverbs 4:20-22)
- C. that healing is His will
 - Jesus died on the cross in order to take away our sins and sicknesses.
 - Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
 - Jesus healed before and He is the same Jesus who heals today.
 - Jesus healed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit is in the church doing the same miracles of healing.
 - Jesus commanded His disciples "all believers, including us" to lay hands on the sick, using His name.

III. CAUSES OF SICKNESS

- A. **Problems on earth because of Adam's sin. (Genesis 3: 16-19)**

